

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to mourn the untimely deaths and celebrate the lives of two New Mexico heroes. One died just last week from injuries he sustained while serving his country in Afghanistan. The other was killed this past June in a helicopter crash after rescuing a stranded hiker lost on the Santa Fe Baldy Mountain.

Both men served their countries with distinction and honor. Both were raised in families with a strong tradition of public service. Both said "Choose me" when they were needed the most. Both paid the ultimate sacrifice. They are Army SFC Kenneth Westbrook and New Mexico State police sergeant Andrew Tingwall. I would like to tell you about them today.

Sergeant Westbrook's career in the military began more than 20 years ago after he graduated from Shiprock High School in northwest New Mexico. He married his childhood sweetheart, Charlene. Along the way, they had three children—Zachary, Joshua, and Joseph.

He served in the Persian Gulf war and did numerous other stints overseas in places such as Korea and Germany. He was a proud member of the Navajo Nation. He loved to hunt and fish, build model military vehicles, and was an expert chef and grill master.

His brother says Kenneth was looking forward to retiring from the military and spending more time with his family when he got the call for one more tour of duty—this time to Afghanistan. As much as he cherished the idea of spending more time with his family, Kenneth knew what he had to do: Of course, I will go, he said. Kenneth believed in the work being done in Afghanistan, his brother said. And if the Army needed him to complete that work, there was no question he would be there.

Kenneth was gravely wounded on September 8 when his unit was attacked by insurgents in Afghanistan. He was quickly flown to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for treatment. That is where I met his wife Charlene and other members of his family. That is where Sergeant Westbrook died from his injuries last week.

Military families are a special group of people. Every day they face sacrifices and challenges the average person can't imagine. They do it with grace and strength and an unwavering belief in the country they call home. That is what I saw the day I visited Charlene and Sergeant Westbrook's three boys. I saw a strength made even more striking when you realize this tragedy wasn't their first.

Four years earlier, almost to the day, another Sergeant Westbrook died. His older brother—SGT Marshall Alan Westbrook—was killed in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near his humvee in Baghdad.

The Westbrooks have given more than most families. Their tight-knit family has paid the ultimate sacrifice, and for the Westbrooks, it happened not once but twice. As Americans, we often take for granted our freedoms, but we should never forget those whose sacrifice makes those freedoms possible.

Sergeant Westbrook will be laid to rest on Friday in Farmington, but he will forever live in the memory of New Mexicans.

This story of New Mexican heroism doesn't end there. I would also like to talk about New Mexico State Police SGT Andrew Tingwall, who was killed last June in a helicopter accident after rescuing a stranded, lost hiker. Sergeant Tingwall is being honored on Friday with a posthumous induction into the New Mexican Military Institute Alumni Association Hall of Fame, which I helped nominate him for. His honor is for Eminence in a Chosen Field. Similar to Sergeant Westbrook, Andy Tingwall's chosen field was service—service to his community, service to his State, and service to his country.

Known as "Ting" to his friends, Sergeant Tingwall graduated from the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell in 1991 and joined the U.S. Marine Corps shortly after. During his military career, he became a jump-qualified reconnaissance marine and served with Delta Company's Fourth Reconnaissance Battalion. He continued his distinguished career as a New Mexico reservist from 1993 to 1995, when he joined the New Mexico State Police.

Eventually, he became lead instructor for the Training and Recruiting Division of the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy before joining the New Mexico State Police aircraft section, where he became a pilot. Sergeant Tingwall proved his merit there, serving as chief pilot of the unit—the youngest man to ever have that title.

Sergeant Tingwall was known by his colleagues, friends, and family for his heroism and love of the sky, saving many lives in his time with the State police. In 2008, he was celebrated as Officer of the Year by the New Mexico Sheriffs and Police Association and would have received a Medal of Valor in June, but for Sergeant Tingwall, that day would never come.

Sergeant Tingwall was in the middle of saving the life of a stranded hiker on June 9 when tragedy struck. He and his spotter, Officer Wesley Cox, had located the stranded hiker and Sergeant Tingwall was transporting her to safety when the helicopter struck a mountainside and crashed.

After the crash, as he had throughout his career, Sergeant Tingwall put the

safety of others before his own. Despite being severely injured, he managed to pull the hiker from the wreckage before they both died from their injuries. Sergeant Tingwall was just 36 years old.

Duty, honor, country—three words you hear often when talking about those who commit themselves to a life of public service. Sergeants Westbrook and Tingwall personified those lives, both in the way they lived their lives and in the way those lives ultimately ended.

New Mexico is proud to honor these true American heroes. To their families, we say thank you and ask them to accept the thanks of a grateful State and a grateful nation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. McCASKILL). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1789 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

THE FEDERAL DEBT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we have had an ongoing debate on the floor about health care reform, its cost, whether it is going to add to the deficit. We had an exchange yesterday or the day before with Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader. We talked a little bit about the debt America faces and how this debt came about.

Senator KYL, my Republican counterpart, Republican whip from Arizona and a friend of mine, came to the floor and carried on this dialog and debate. When you consider the Senate Chamber is supposed to be about debate, it is all good that he would do that. But I do want to take exception to a couple of things my friend Senator KYL said.

Let me say at the outset, between 1998 and 2000, under President Clinton, our Nation ran a fiscal surplus. It is hard for many people now, when they look at a multi-trillion-dollar deficit, to imagine just a few years back we did have a surplus. We actually reduced the Federal debt in those 2 years by \$236 billion, our economy was doing well, creating jobs and businesses. That is what President George W. Bush inherited when he came to office.

Between 2001 and 2009, when President George W. Bush was in office, the economy grew. Normally you would think this period of economic growth would lead to an improved fiscal picture since tax receipts for government usually grow with the economy. Instead, under President Bush our Nation

ran deficits during his term of nearly \$7 trillion. The cumulative Federal debt more than doubled under President George W. Bush, who inherited a surplus from President Clinton. It went up from \$5.8 trillion in 2001 to \$12.7 trillion in 2009.

At the end of the Bush administration, the economy faced the worst crisis since the Great Depression, the recession we are now encountering. That is what President Obama inherited when he was sworn in 9 months ago. Back in February, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that, assuming continuation of budget policies that were in effect in January of this year, the Federal budget deficit would average more than \$1 trillion each year over the next 10 years and would climb higher in later years. That estimate was developed based completely on the budget policies that the current President inherited from the previous President. So to argue that the Nation's fiscal woes should be all laid at the doorstep of President Obama overlooks the obvious. Given the soaring debts and woeful economy he inherited, it certainly is not defensible.

America will run a fiscal deficit this year and it will be a large deficit, there is no question about it. In an economy such as this, where there is so little private sector demand, we have tried to create through stimulus packages, re-investment, and recovery good jobs and economic activity that will revitalize our economy.

Why did President Bush have such record-breaking deficits during his tenure? I can tell you that he was the first President in the history of the United States to call for tax cuts in the midst of a war—in fact, in the midst of two wars. Giving tax cuts to the wealthiest people in the Nation during a war is counterintuitive. A war is an added expense to a nation, over and above the ordinary costs of government, and to cut revenue sources by giving tax cuts to those in higher income categories drove us deeper and deeper into deficit.

In addition, President Bush during his term passed the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. I think it was a good program, although there were changes I certainly would have made before I would vote for it. But the fact is that the President did not pay for it. It was added to the deficit which the current President has inherited. It is little wonder then that the debt grew dramatically during President George Bush's time in office.

Having said all of this, we have to do something serious about this debt. I think we have to focus on putting this economy back on its feet, getting people back to work, making sure that businesses have credit, making certain that the money spent by our government is spent well, without waste. Those are certainly monumental tasks for us to face. But to say that this health care reform is going to add to the deficit is to overlook the obvious. President Obama has told Members of

Congress: Don't send me a health care reform bill if it adds to the deficit. The Senate Finance Committee bill that passed this week did not add to the deficit. In fact, it reduced the deficit over a 10-year period of time. So we have taken President Obama's admonition seriously.

In a week or two, we will start the debate over the future of health care in this Nation with the understanding that whatever we do has to be paid for, that we cannot leave it as a debt to future generations. It is an awesome responsibility and challenge we face. It is one I think we are up to, that the American people would feel Congress had dropped the ball and had failed if we do not end up with health care reform. We have a lot of issues to work out among us. I hope Senator SNOWE on the Republican side will be joined by other Senators who can in good faith join in trying to solve some of these awesome problems we face, problems we have inherited. It is a major responsibility and one we accept with the leadership of the President to help us find that solution.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, the American people are rightly very concerned about the reckless spending being conducted in Washington spending that has resulted in huge national deficits. People sometimes think that Republicans and Democrats are just bickering, but the truth is that we have never had deficits such as these in the history of our country—perhaps only during the peak of World War II, when we were in a life-and-death struggle with millions of men and women in combat from one end of the globe to the other.

The fiscal year 2010 deficit is \$1.4 trillion. It is predicted to average \$1 trillion for the next decade, without relief in the outyears. People often ask me: When are we going to start paying it back? There is no plan to do so. There is not even any plan to reduce the size of the deficit. In years 8, 9, 10, we are talking about over \$900 billion in annual deficits. Interest today on our total debt is \$170 billion, will rise to \$800 billion in 1 year and that is just the interest on the money we must borrow in order to carry these deficits that are not being reduced in the out-years. It is unthinkable.

A lot of people think that the high deficit is due to costs from a health care reform bill. Health care reform will add to the deficit, but is not cur-

rently counted in the numbers I referenced because the Congressional Budget Office did its scoring before any health care bill was written. We don't have a final bill, so CBO couldn't score it accurately anyway.

The public debt will go from \$5 trillion to \$11.7 trillion in 5 years and triple to \$17 trillion in 10 years, tripling the national debt. The total debt from the founding of the American Republic will be tripled. That is a big deal.

My colleague, Senator DURBIN, and our Democratic colleagues have taken great pleasure in attacking President Bush. I was critical of President Bush's spending, but his average deficit was \$250 billion, which was too much and big. However, this year's deficit is going to be \$1.4 trillion. That is the deficit as of September 30, for this fiscal year. And we will carry an average deficit \$900 billion annually in the coming years. You can blame the origins of the deficit on President Bush if you want to, but President Obama's budget for the next 10 years, scored by the Congressional Budget Office, continues to score deficits at \$900 billion. Regardless, we are spending too much money. Republicans are guilty of it, and so are the Democrats. They promised to do better after they got elected this time, but I haven't seen any progress, frankly.

The media has reported recently that the valuation of the Finance Committee's health care bill by the Congressional Budget Office was quite positive. They said—you may have heard the phrase—that it was deficit neutral. How did that happen? How can you add millions of people to the rolls of insured, and subsidize insurance for low-income people, all without having a cost? We need to examine that.

The CBO says the Finance Committee bill would cost \$829 billion over 10 years, but they say it is not going to increase the deficit. It will increase the number of people covered but not increase the deficit.

The Washington Post wrote:

The Finance Committee's bill is the only legislation on the table that meets Obama's objectives [. . .] all for less than \$900 billion over 10 years, and without adding to the deficit.

So that has been the spin. That has been the statement from the media.

The President said in his September address to Congress that he would not sign a health care reform bill that adds one dime to the deficit. Senator BAUCUS, the Finance Committee chairman, said:

Our balanced approach in the Finance Committee to health reform has paid off once again.

He said the bill was "a smart investment on the federal balance sheet." Would that it were so, but that is not an accurate statement. The American people know you cannot expand coverage for millions of the uninsured without incurring cost. There is no